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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

17 CR 597 (RJS)

5 DANIEL SHERLOCK,

6 Defendant.

7 -----x
8 New York, N.Y.
9 September 6, 2019
10:15 a.m.

10 Before:

11 HON. RICHARD J. SULLIVAN,

12 Circuit Judge
13 Sitting By Designation

14 APPEARANCES

15 GEOFFREY S. BERMAN,
16 United States Attorney for the
17 Southern District of New York
18 ALEXANDRA ROTHMAN
19 LOUIS PELLEGRINO
20 Assistant United States Attorneys

21 DAVID PATTON
22 FEDERAL DEFENDERS OF NEW YORK
23 Attorney for Defendant
24 BY: SABRINA P. SHROFF
25

21 ALSO PRESENT:

22 MICHELLE MILLAN, Probation
23
24
25

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(Case called)

THE COURT: Good morning. Let me take appearances.
For the government?

MS. ROTHMAN: Good morning, your Honor. Alexandra
Rothman and Louis Pellegrino, for the United States.

MR. PELLEGRINO: Good morning, your Honor.

THE COURT: Good morning.
And for the defendant?

MS. SHROFF: Good morning, your Honor. For Daniel
Sherlock, who's seated to my left, and his guardian, Lynn
Sherlock, who's seated to his left, Federal Defenders of
New York, by Sabrina Shroff. Also present in court in the
case, in case you wanted to hear from her, is Dr. Cohen, and
she's seated in the front row.

THE COURT: All right. Good morning to each of you
and Dr. Cohen. Thank you for being here today. I've read your
report.

We were last here for sentencing on March 13th. At
that time, I reviewed with everybody what I had received in
connection with sentencing, and then we were discussing the
need for some additional materials. So, at that time, I
directed that an evaluation be done. And then I thought I had
also asked that we have someone here from the program where
Mr. Sherlock is currently being treated. So, what I had said,
at page 14 of that transcript, was I'm inclined to put this

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1 over, order this report, and then when we come back for
2 sentencing, have a representative from where he is now come to
3 court, so that I can ask that person some questions about the
4 treatment he's getting, the treatment he's going to need going
5 forward, so I can have a better understanding as to what
6 exactly is the plan for Mr. Sherlock.

7 But there's nobody here from Western Suffolk, or
8 Pilgrim, or any places where he's being treated; is that
9 correct? That's really for Ms. Shroff.

10 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: No? Okay.

12 And why not?

13 MS. SHROFF: Well, your Honor, I'm sorry, I did not
14 understand that just to be directed at me since the government,
15 in its submission, seemed to have contact with them and relied
16 on their reporting to support their conclusion. But, more
17 importantly, honestly, I did not have them come because I don't
18 think that the treatment for Mr. Sherlock will simply be from
19 them. I think that probation, along with Dr. Cohen, will have
20 a different treatment plan. I'm not sure that the placement
21 there will be a continued placement forever. I wasn't
22 necessarily sure --

23 THE COURT: Well, I wanted to ask questions about the
24 treatment he was getting.

25 So, Dr. Cromer has sort of discussed this, and it's

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1 reflected or memorialized in the report of Dr. McCarthy, but I
2 anticipated we'd have somebody there who could say how he's
3 doing.

4 Now, we've had a few other data points along the way
5 since March 13th. Maybe I should just state what else I've
6 received and reviewed in connection with sentencing since
7 March 13th. So, on March 13th, I was talking about all the
8 things that were in the record that I had reviewed. Since
9 then, I have now reviewed the transcript of that proceeding on
10 March 13th, where we put off sentencing. I have also reviewed,
11 then, a March 18th submission from probation, from Ms. Millan,
12 who's here also in court, related to the sexual evaluation. I
13 have reviewed the order that I issued, which also attached a
14 letter from Ms. Shroff. So that was an order on March 22nd.
15 There, then, was another order from me on March 1st, another on
16 March 8th, a letter from Ms. Shroff on April 9th -- I'm sorry,
17 I said March 1st, I meant April 1st and April 8th, with letters
18 from Ms. Shroff on April 9th.

19 I then issued another order on April 9th, another on
20 April 15th, and then I got an action request from a John
21 Moscato from pretrial services on May 7th about a violation of
22 the bail conditions. So, I then amended the bail conditions to
23 include drug testing and treatment on May 7th.

24 On May 23rd, I then got another notice of a violation
25 of bail conditions from Mr. Moscato. This was related to the

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1 seizure of a phone from Mr. Sherlock and also that he had
2 tested positive for marijuana. It reflected the marijuana
3 issue as well.

4 So, I issued an order on the 24th of May, scheduling a
5 conference. Ms. Shroff sent a letter to ask me if we could
6 move that to another day, which we did, and then we were here
7 together on May 31st. So I have reviewed the transcript of
8 that bail review hearing. I kept Mr. Sherlock out even though
9 pretrial services and the government were, at least initially,
10 asking that I remand him. But, in any event, I changed the
11 conditions to basically make it the equivalent of sort of home
12 confinement while he was at the facility.

13 So, I then have received a June 10th report, a
14 psychosexual evaluation from the New York Mental Health Group,
15 Jennifer McCarthy being the author. That report is 27 pages,
16 single-spaced. I then have a revised presentence report dated
17 August 20th. There was one on July 31st, but the one I got was
18 August 20th, so I have reviewed that.

19 I then have reviewed an August 21st letter from
20 Ms. Shroff, which attaches Dr. Cohen's report, which is a
21 15-page -- no, 17-page submission. I then have a letter from
22 the government dated August 29th, a two-pager, and then a
23 letter from Ms. Shroff dated September 5th, which is a
24 one-pager, that attaches, then, an addendum or response from
25 Dr. Cohen to certain portions of the government's letter.

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1 So, that's what I have received in connection with
2 sentencing. Is there anything else that I have overlooked?

3 MS. ROTHMAN: Not from the government, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Ms. Shroff?

5 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor. Thank you.

6 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

7 Well, I guess we'll start with the presentence report,
8 the most recent presentence report. So, Ms. Shroff, have you
9 had a chance to review that presentence report with your
10 client?

11 MS. SHROFF: I did, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: All right.

13 Do you have any objections to what's in the report?

14 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: No? All right.

16 So, Ms. Rothman, you have reviewed the presentence
17 report?

18 MS. ROTHMAN: I have, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Do you have any objections to what's in
20 the report?

21 MS. ROTHMAN: No, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 So, let's, I guess, go to the presentence report,
24 particularly with respect to the guidelines calculation.
25 Mr. Sherlock, you may remember, when you pleaded guilty, I told

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1 you about a number of factors that the Court has to consider
2 before imposing a sentence.

3 Do you remember that?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

5 THE COURT: One of the things I talked about was the
6 United States Sentencing Guidelines manual. Do you recall
7 that?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: This is a while ago, but I told you that
10 this was a book that's pretty long, it's like 600 pages long,
11 but it's put out by a commission, and that's a commission that
12 is called the United States Sentencing Commission. That
13 commission has some judges, and some lawyers, and some experts
14 in the field of criminal law. The way this book works is that
15 it's designed to give guidance to judges like me, who have to
16 impose sentences on real people.

17 So, for every crime or type of crime, there's a
18 chapter in this book, and the judge is directed to go to the
19 chapter that relates to the crime in a particular case. And
20 once in that chapter, the judge makes findings based on certain
21 prompts in the book. And then the judge -- once the judge
22 makes findings, the judge then assigns points according to
23 what's in this book. It's kind of like accounting. The judge
24 makes a finding, assigns points, adds up those points, in some
25 cases subtracts points, but, ultimately, the judge comes up

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1 with a number. That number is referred to as the offense
2 level.

3 The judge then goes to another chapter in this book,
4 and that's a chapter that relates to criminal history. And not
5 surprisingly, people who have committed crimes before and been
6 sentenced to prison perhaps, well, they will be treated more
7 harshly than a person who has no prior convictions. So, the
8 judge looks at the person's criminal history and what's in that
9 chapter, the judge assigns points based on whether there were
10 prior convictions, the length of time that was imposed for
11 those convictions, the judge adds up those points, and the
12 judge comes up with another number. That number is referred to
13 as the criminal history category. There are six criminal
14 history categories. Category I is the lowest, the least
15 serious, and Category VI is the highest and most serious.

16 Then with those two numbers that I talked about, the
17 offense level on the one hand and the criminal history category
18 on the other, the judge goes to the back of this book where
19 there's a chart or a grid. I think Ms. Shroff may have handed
20 you a version of it, I'm not sure. But, in any event, there's
21 a column here on the far left. That's the offense level
22 column. It starts at number 1 at the top and goes all the way
23 down to 43 at the bottom. So I will go down that column until
24 I reach the number that I found to be the offense level in this
25 case. I'll then go across these other columns, each of which

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1 reflects a criminal history category, and I'll go to the one
2 that I found to be the appropriate criminal history category.
3 And where my finger finally stops in that exercise, well, that
4 is the range that the commission thinks would be appropriate
5 for that crime, or for that offense level, and for that
6 criminal history category. It's a range in terms of months.

7 Now, it's not mandatory -- I don't have to follow this
8 book -- but I do have to consider it, and I do have to make my
9 findings under it. I have to announce those findings.

10 Now, there are other factors that are just as
11 important as this book. I'll mention those in a minute. I
12 think I mentioned them on the day you pled guilty. But for
13 now, we're going to spend a few minutes talking about this book
14 and how it applies in this case. So, as I said, it can seem a
15 little technical. It can seem a little dry. It is, frankly, a
16 little dry, but it is important. And I don't think there's any
17 real dispute here, so I'll get right to it.

18 So, beginning on page 9 of the report, the probation
19 office believes that the base offense level is level 18 because
20 of this crime. You pled guilty to a possession of child
21 pornography. That crime is covered by Section 2G2.2 of the
22 sentencing guidelines. The base offense level is 18.

23 I then add two levels because the material involved a
24 prepubescent minor, so that's a two-level increase pursuant to
25 2G2.2(b)(2).

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1 I then add four levels because some of the material
2 portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct towards the victims,
3 towards the children, that are depicted in the images. So
4 that's a four-level increase pursuant to 2G2.2(b)(4).

5 There is then an additional two-point level because
6 this crime involved the use of a computer -- they almost all do
7 these days, but it's not necessarily the case -- and the
8 guidelines call for an additional two levels for the use of a
9 computer for the receipt or possession of materials like this.

10 Because at least ten images, but fewer than 150 images
11 were found or possessed by you, that results in another
12 two-level increase pursuant to 2G2.2(b)(7)(A). So the grand
13 total of all of that is 28.

14 Because you pled guilty without going to trial,
15 because you accepted responsibility, because you saved the
16 Court and the government the time and resources necessary to
17 try the case, you get a benefit for that. And so, I will
18 reduce that level by three because of your acceptance of
19 responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the guidelines. So
20 that puts us, then, at a total offense level of 25. That's
21 according to what's in the presentence report.

22 Does anybody object to that? Anybody think that
23 that's inaccurate or incorrect?

24 MS. ROTHMAN: No, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Ms. Shroff?

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1 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay. So, level 25.

3 In terms of criminal history: You have a prior
4 conviction for similar conduct in state court, not federal
5 court. So it's a little different there, as you know. But
6 that resulted in you, I guess, pleading guilty and being
7 sentenced to three years of probation. So, that counts for one
8 point, one criminal history point.

9 However, because you committed this crime while you
10 were still under a term of probation in Nassau County, you get
11 two more points added. If you commit a crime while you're on
12 supervision, the thought is that that makes you more culpable
13 than a person who wasn't being supervised. So you get two more
14 criminal history points pursuant to Section 4A1.1(d) of the
15 guidelines, for a total of three criminal history points.

16 Three criminal history points puts you in Criminal
17 History Category II. So, I is the lowest, II is next, VI is
18 the most serious. So you're in Criminal History Category II.

19 Does anybody disagree with the criminal history
20 calculation?

21 MS. ROTHMAN: No, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Ms. Shroff?

23 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: So, that, then, results in a guidelines
25 range of 63 to 78 months. So, in the view of the commission --

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1 and I guess in the ordinary case with an offense level of 25
2 and a criminal history category of II, the view of the
3 commission is that that warrants a sentence of 63 to 78 months,
4 so a little over five years to six and a half years. So that's
5 according to this book.

6 Now, as I said, this book is not the only
7 consideration. It's not mandatory. And I have to consider
8 this book, but I have to consider other factors as well. Those
9 other factors that I mentioned to you when you pleaded guilty
10 include, first of all, your own personal history. You're a
11 unique -- everybody's unique, and every sentence is unique.
12 Every defendant has his or her own unique set of
13 characteristics and experiences, and it's important for the
14 judge to consider that unique set of experiences and
15 characteristics in imposing a sentence. So I have to tailor
16 this sentence to you as a person. I don't have to just sort of
17 slavishly follow the guidelines. I have to think, well, how
18 does this work for Mr. Sherlock? That means looking at your
19 entire experience from your birth right up until now, okay? So
20 you're complicated, everybody's complicated. You've had a
21 range of experiences in your life and challenges in your life,
22 and I get that. We've spent a lot of time talking about those
23 things here in court and also in the submissions that I have
24 received. But I have to consider those things, and I have to
25 make sure that the sentence I impose is tailored to you. I'm

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1 sure we'll talk about those things some more, but that's a
2 factor that I have to consider.

3 Another factor that I have to consider relates to the
4 facts and circumstances of this crime. Just as I have to
5 tailor this sentence to you as a person, I also have to tailor
6 the sentence to the crime. That means looking at the details
7 of the crime. Now, the book does that a little bit. You know,
8 some of the things I just mentioned of the book sort of account
9 for some of the details of the crime, but I have to -- the book
10 can't do it all. This is a blunt instrument. It can't
11 possibly anticipate every unique case. So I have to look at
12 the details, just what went on here, for how long did you do
13 this, where and when did you do it, what were your motivations,
14 why did you stop, what was the impact of this crime on victims?
15 All of that matters in fashioning a sentence, and I have to
16 make sure that the sentence I impose provides a just punishment
17 for this crime, that it fits the crime.

18 I have to make sure that it promotes respect for the
19 law, so that's another factor I have to consider.

20 An additional factor that I have to consider is the
21 need to deter or discourage you and others from committing
22 crimes like this in the future. You've committed a crime like
23 this in the past. I have to try to impose a sentence that will
24 send a message that you don't even attempt to do this again. I
25 have to also, hopefully, send a message in my sentencing here

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1 today to other people, to others who might be engaged in or
2 might be considering this type of a crime, and the hope is that
3 they, too, will learn about this sentence, and they will be
4 affected by it, that your future conduct and the future conduct
5 of others might be affected by the sentence that I impose.

6 Now, it's hard to know -- I can't predict the future,
7 so it's very hard for me to know exactly what impact my
8 sentences will have on your future behavior or other people's
9 future behavior, but I have to use my best judgment. That
10 means looking at your past behavior, it means assessing who you
11 are as a person, it also means thinking long and hard about
12 this crime and this type of crime, and think about what it
13 might require to send that message. So that's an objective of
14 sentencing, to send the message, to discourage people from
15 engaging crime in the future.

16 Another factor that I have to consider are your own
17 needs while you're in custody. So, to the extent that I impose
18 a custodial sentence, then I have to make sure that your needs
19 are being addressed. Now, you have a unique set of needs,
20 different from a lot of other people. I sentenced a guy
21 recently who was 78 -- 76 -- he was old, he had a lot of health
22 issues. I've sentenced other people who are really young, 22,
23 healthy, strong, but they had a lot of other issues, maybe
24 substance abuse treatment issues, the need for a GED or
25 educational or job training programs. So everyone's got their

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1 own needs. I have to make sure that your needs are being
2 addressed during any time that you would be in custody. So
3 that's an important factor.

4 And, finally, the last factor that I have to consider,
5 in addition to all those others I mentioned, is the need to
6 avoid disparities or differences in the sentences of people who
7 are otherwise similar. So, people who have engaged in similar
8 conduct, who have similar histories, should, as a general
9 matter, have similar sentences. Now, no two people or cases
10 are exactly alike, and, of course, we know that, but where
11 there are similarities, then sentences should similar. It
12 would be bad if sentences were all over the place. If some
13 judges were imposing ten years and others were imposing no time
14 at all for similar conduct with defendants who are very, very
15 similar, that would look arbitrary, and it would probably
16 promote disrespect for the law. So we want to have some
17 consistency in this process, but we also want to make sure that
18 every sentencing is tailored to the person and to the facts of
19 the case.

20 So, my job is to balance all those things and to come
21 up with a sentence that does justice to all of them, even
22 though sometimes those things can be in tension with each
23 other. There might be certain factors that argue really for a
24 harsher sentence, while others would argue for a more lenient
25 sentence. So the balancing is the hard part. It's the hardest

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1 thing any judge does. It's the biggest responsibility any
2 judge has because a sentence has a huge impact on the life of
3 the defendant, and the life of the defendant's family, and
4 other people, too. And that's, of course, the case.

5 So, I get it, but I have a lot of things to consider.

6 So, do you have any questions about those different
7 factors?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 So, what we're going to do going forward is I'm going
11 to hear from the attorneys. They've written to me, and I've
12 gotten multiple submissions from them. I've gotten a lot of
13 things that I told you about that I reviewed, but I'm going to
14 give the lawyers an opportunity to address the Court, to raise
15 some of the things they may have raised before, but perhaps to
16 raise new points, too, that's fine. We're in no hurry. Here
17 today, this is a very important decision that I have to make,
18 it's a very important day in your life, so we're going to take
19 as much time as we need to get it right because it is that
20 important. Okay?

21 So we'll start with Ms. Shroff, I'll then hear from
22 the government. Ms. Rothman, are you carrying the ball for the
23 government?

24 MS. ROTHMAN: I am, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Okay. And I'll allow them, perhaps, to

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1 respond to each other, so we won't have to be highly formal. I
2 may have questions as we go. But I guess one question I had
3 for the government is: Are there any victims who wish to be
4 heard or who wish to make submissions, anything like that?

5 MS. ROTHMAN: There are none in this case, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay.

7 So, the report indicated that there were victims that
8 were part of a series of what was identified as the Tweeting
9 series. The victims were identified by number, but sometimes I
10 get letters from the victims, which are used in a lot of cases
11 because some of these images are downloaded all over the
12 country, but we don't have that. We don't have any identified
13 victims at this point?

14 MS. ROTHMAN: That's correct, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 So, ordinarily, victims would have a right to speak,
17 they'd have a right to be heard. Here, it seems as though
18 there are no victims who have been identified, so we won't be
19 hearing from them, but we shouldn't imagine that this is a
20 victimless crime.

21 In addition to the lawyers and victims, if they were
22 here, you also have a right to address the Court. So, you're
23 not required to, but you have a right to. So I'll make sure
24 that you have an opportunity to speak if you'd like to. Okay?

25 THE DEFENDANT: All right. Thank you.

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1 THE COURT: So, Ms. Shroff, I'll start with you.

2 MS. SHROFF: Your Honor, I know the Court already
3 addressed the sentencing guidelines.

4 THE COURT: Yes.

5 MS. SHROFF: Sorry, I seem to have lost my shoe.

6 I am sure the Court knows that United States v.
7 Dorvee --

8 THE COURT: Of course. These guidelines have been
9 criticized more than probably any other guidelines provision.

10 MS. SHROFF: I just want to make sure I did my job and
11 mention Dorvee.

12 THE COURT: I think it's in your letter.

13 MS. SHROFF: Well, look, we've gone back and forth on
14 Mr. Sherlock, and more than most judges, I think this Court has
15 a very thorough understanding of who Mr. Sherlock is, the
16 challenges that he's had, and the challenges that are yet to
17 come for him. And I do not want to even begin to pretend to
18 understand the challenges, given the low IQ, and, honestly,
19 whether he is an underreporter, a poor historian, a bad
20 informant, I really am not going to engage in that colloquy
21 here because the historical record supports that result from
22 the time he was in fourth grade, and surely nobody can say he
23 was positing or posturing when he was in fourth grade.

24 THE COURT: Look, he clearly has issues that are not
25 typical --

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1 MS. SHROFF: Right.

2 THE COURT: -- of defendants we see. No question
3 about that.

4 Can I interrupt you just for a second?

5 MS. SHROFF: Of course.

6 THE COURT: And you obviously get to speak as long as
7 you like.

8 But I was, candidly, troubled by Dr. Cromer's
9 statements to Dr. McCarthy. So, Dr. Cromer's letter that you
10 attached to your original sentencing submission, as I mentioned
11 last time, says almost nothing. It's very short. It basically
12 says he's attending treatment. It describes or characterizes
13 his attendance as good, basically, but it doesn't say much.
14 But what Dr. Cromer said to Dr. McCarthy was more expansive and
15 not particularly flattering, actually. It did suggest that
16 Mr. Sherlock does not really seem to be that serious about
17 treatment, that he hasn't really engaged in a very thorough
18 way.

19 So, I was hoping that he might be here today, so that
20 I could engage him further on this, but what he said, among
21 other things, is that his attendance was pretty good, but,
22 overall, he's not fully engaged with all treatment providers,
23 he does not fully appreciate the extent to which he needs
24 mental health treatment. He believes that Mr. Sherlock would
25 not be as engaged in treatment if his sentencing were not

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1 looming. He describes Mr. Sherlock as an inconsistent
2 self-reporter and unreliable informant. That's what you were
3 just alluding to. And I agree, I'm not sure what that means
4 exactly, other than to say that, to the extent that reports or
5 expert opinions are based on things that Mr. Sherlock has said,
6 it may be that it's not as reliable as might be wished.

7 But Dr. Cromer also indicated that he thought
8 Mr. Sherlock does not take treatment, especially substance
9 abuse treatment, seriously. It also indicated that with
10 respect to his intelligence, that he's, in some ways,
11 intelligent, that he's -- if something is interesting to him,
12 he can retain information, some suggestion that he did research
13 on polygraph tests and IQ tests, perhaps with a view towards
14 faking bad when taking the tests. I'm not sure that I'm
15 prepared to say that the results in Dr. McCarthy's report or
16 Dr. Cohen's report are the result of faked tests. I think,
17 clearly, there's cognitive issues and other issues that have
18 been identified very well in the reports. So, I'm not going to
19 put a lot of stock in that. But it does suggest that this is
20 someone who's not serious about treatment, hasn't really done
21 that well.

22 He also indicated, with respect to risk -- at least
23 for me this goes to risk -- that Mr. Sherlock reported that
24 he's very attracted to prepubescent individuals, but would
25 never have contact. That's self-reporting. But there was a

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1 statement in here that the victim empathy expressed by
2 Mr. Sherlock is lip service. He minimizes there was a victim
3 and acts like it was a victimless crime. He's made comments
4 that he had a profile in a chatroom to potentially meet people
5 who were underage. That was a new fact I hadn't heard before.
6 So, that was troubling to me.

7 And then I guess the phone that was the subject of a
8 hearing back in May, Mr. Sherlock told Dr. Cromer, I gather,
9 that he purchased the phone two days prior, but, according to
10 Dr. Cromer, when the staff looked through the phone, it
11 appeared that he had the phone for more than two days.

12 So, finally, Dr. Cromer concludes that -- when asked
13 if he believed that Mr. Sherlock had made progress in
14 treatment, Dr. Cromer stated, very small, it's hard to trust
15 him, he makes it seem good, he's made a little bit of progress,
16 but he doesn't take it too seriously. He's superficially
17 engaged.

18 So, that was not what I was hoping to hear, certainly,
19 and I guess I was hoping you might respond to that.

20 MS. SHROFF: I'm happy to respond to that, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MS. SHROFF: So I have two separate responses to it.

23 One is that Dr. Cromer has been engaged with
24 Mr. Sherlock for quite some time.

25 THE COURT: Yes. He's not somebody who's met him for

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1 a couple of hours and administered some tests.

2 MS. SHROFF: Right.

3 THE COURT: He's somebody who is his treating
4 psychiatrist, right?

5 MS. SHROFF: Right. And this treating psychiatrist
6 has access to Mr. Sherlock's guardian and mother. I think she
7 is, by any standard -- be it mine, the government's, or the
8 Court's -- an extremely engaged caretaker even according to
9 probation.

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MS. SHROFF: If Dr. Cromer's concern was so heightened
12 about Mr. Sherlock's participation, there was no such mention
13 at all to his mother, there was no such mention at all to a
14 pretrial services officer, who is also extremely engaged,
15 Mr. Moscato. Not only that, we sent Ms. Veasley out to the
16 facility over and over again, and Dr. Cromer made no such
17 mention to her.

18 Dr. Cromer knows that Mr. Sherlock has a lawyer, has a
19 prosecutor, and has pretrial and probation, and not once has
20 Dr. Cromer ever reached out and said, this person is not
21 participating as I'd like him to, can we arrange for an
22 intervention, and we would have.

23 THE COURT: Well, that's not the issue, though. I
24 think the issue is his description. You're taking issue with
25 the description?

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1 MS. SHROFF: No. I'm taking issue with the fact that
2 I do not know necessarily what this description tells the
3 Court, especially because it relies on some amount of
4 subjective thought. To say that Mr. Sherlock has participated
5 in therapy because sentencing is looming, okay, so what? He's
6 going to participate in therapy because he's on supervised
7 release. He is --

8 THE COURT: But less motivated is the point. That's
9 the point, I think, Dr. Cromer was making.

10 MS. SHROFF: Right. But, honestly, and I don't mean
11 to be flip at all, and I'm not being flip -- I hope the Court
12 understands that -- if I do my work, whether I believe my
13 client is guilty or innocent, what does it matter as long as I
14 do the work?

15 THE COURT: But Dr. Cromer is suggesting he's not
16 really doing the work.

17 MS. SHROFF: I'm getting there, your Honor.

18 So, I discussed this issue not just with Mr. Sherlock,
19 but also with Dr. Cohen. And Dr. Cohen can speak to this, if
20 the Court wishes, but there is a tendency among people who are
21 on the autism spectrum to sometimes not be able to fully
22 understand the consequences of what they're doing, and, also,
23 their affect is such, that when it is received by society, it
24 is often misperceived. The important thing here is that
25 Mr. Sherlock continues to engage.

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1 Now, if he doesn't engage to the point where he has
2 the same level of insight as you or I, I think that's too high
3 a standard to set for Mr. Sherlock. But I do think this:
4 Mr. Sherlock is in therapy. Dr. Cromer has not discharged him
5 from the work he is doing with him. So whatever incremental
6 progress he's making, it's still progress for Mr. Sherlock.
7 Mr. Sherlock has, in fact, listened to the directive of this
8 Court since the last time he came. You gave him an opportunity
9 to make sure he did not use drugs again, and he has not tested
10 positive.

11 In response to that, even while he is with Dr. Cromer
12 in therapy, he has started to go to a group for AA and NA.
13 That is corroborated by the people in his program because they
14 monitor his going. He is trying to learn more about drugs and
15 his addiction, so he can cope with it. And these are progress
16 data points that may not be good or great for us, but for him,
17 they are leaps and leaps from where he was before.

18 I remind the Court that in 2017, when Mr. Sherlock was
19 first arrested and prior to that, he was suicidal. He had
20 three suicide attempts. While he was in the program, the only
21 way he could deal with his major depressive disorder was to try
22 and hang himself with a belt.

23 This is progress. It may not be the progress you want
24 to hear, the words may not be the words we want to hear, but it
25 is definitely progress.

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1 So, I'm asking this Court, let's just say -- and I
2 certainly have no intention of asking for a short period of
3 supervised release in this case, because I know that that would
4 not be a good ask for him.

5 THE COURT: Well, I think it's a mandatory five years.

6 MS. SHROFF: Right. Right, I know.

7 But regardless of whether it is a mandatory five years
8 or not, I wouldn't ask for that because for him, treatment is
9 imperative.

10 So, let's just posit here for a minute that the only
11 reason Mr. Sherlock continues in treatment is because this
12 Court has him on supervised release, and everybody in this
13 building, and 40 Foley, and elsewhere knows that Judge Sullivan
14 keeps his own VOSRs. If that is the sole reason Mr. Sherlock
15 continues in therapy, but does the work, is that so bad? It's
16 not. He will do the work. Sooner or later, his insight will
17 grow incrementally for his sake, I hope, but unlike many a
18 defendant that walks into this building, he does have two very
19 strong supporters here. He has his mother, who's involved in
20 care, and she can certainly become more involved as Dr. Cromer
21 and she take the correct steps. That's number one. And she is
22 irreplaceable for him.

23 And number two, he will have probation. And probation
24 from the Southern District of New York is an excellent resource
25 for him.

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1 THE COURT: I agree with that.

2 MS. SHROFF: Right.

3 So, between the two, I do not worry that he will not
4 get the type of treatment that Jennifer McCarthy is worried
5 about, and certainly our office has Dr. Cohen at his disposal
6 should he need to consult with her.

7 So, in terms of his growth, I can't speak to the
8 progress so far, but I can only tell you this: He is engaged,
9 and that's 90 percent of therapy, that he is there. He shows
10 up, he's trying to do the work. That's one.

11 Two, I fail to fathom this risk analysis that
12 Dr. Cromer is undertaking. At one point Dr. Cromer says that
13 he thinks without therapy, he would be at risk of offending
14 others, continuing to watch child pornography. Well, we agree.
15 We agree that there is a risk. The question is how much of a
16 risk. The question is what therapy will do for him. I mean,
17 surely, I would be intellectually dishonest if I told the Court
18 there is no risk of him watching child pornography again.
19 That's just not a truthful statement from me. The question is
20 whether he will reoffend. And given the placement, given
21 probation, and given his mother, I think the chances are
22 extremely low. I am not a doctor, and even if I were, I don't
23 think even Dr. Cohen would say that there is no risk as to any
24 patient, but, again, she is here to explain that to the Court.
25 I do not think that he is -- I don't know what that

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1 phrase was that the Court used.

2 THE COURT: Well, Dr. Cromer used it. I don't
3 think --

4 MS. SHROFF: No, no, I meant that you repeated. I
5 apologize.

6 That he is -- I don't know what it was, but, anyway,
7 that he would fake bad when taking tests. This is the client
8 who said clear as day, not only to Dr. Cromer over and over
9 again, but he said it to Dr. Cohen, and he said it to McCarthy,
10 that he had an interest in child pornography. If he wanted to
11 fake bad, I think, according to them, he is savvy at some
12 point, intellectually disabled at some point, but no matter
13 what, he comes out being able to con someone into thinking that
14 he has no interest in child porn. But he said the opposite, he
15 said he had an interest.

16 And in dealing with that issue -- I talked to
17 Dr. Cohen, and she says that he has an addiction problem, which
18 is why sending him to AA and NA, which is fairly recent, but
19 helping him, was something that was a positive step for
20 everyone because AA and NA at least will teach him coping
21 methods and how to deal with addiction. And nobody's forcing
22 him to go to AA or NA -- he's going on his own -- that is
23 initiative.

24 So, look, I think I can pull out six sentences from
25 one report, the government can pull out eight, and we can go

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1 back and forth on this all day long. I honestly do think that
2 we could literally have each side have specific statements that
3 support their position.

4 I ask the Court to consider something. Not only does
5 Mr. Sherlock have all of these intellectual disability issues,
6 on top of that, he's had this trauma his entire life, he had
7 the trauma of himself at a young age not being physically fit,
8 he had the trauma of being disliked and picked upon in school,
9 which, you know, we can all shrug at, but it's a big deal. He
10 had a brother who died, who died after a terribly long
11 debilitating illness and had a prolonged period of complete
12 neglect from his parents because her hands were too full
13 watching her second child die. Then his father died.

14 You're talking about a mother who's completely
15 overwhelmed and still doing all she can for him. And he has
16 had this trauma, this disability, and this addiction. It has
17 not been an easy road for him.

18 THE COURT: No, I don't think anyone would suggest
19 that it's been easy.

20 MS. SHROFF: So I ask this Court -- not just easy, I
21 mean easy in the sense that -- not that somebody is saying feel
22 sorry for him, but I'm suggesting that the 36 months that
23 probation recommends, is it just for punishment? Is it to make
24 sure that because he watched child porn, and there has to be a
25 jail sentence, and only a jail sentence that will punish? Is

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1 there really that little flexibility in the sentencing scheme,
2 that there is no other way to punish Mr. Sherlock? Is not
3 living away from his mother, forcing him to deal with these
4 issues, being a felon, having a federal case, having all of
5 these issues that he is going to have to deal with successfully
6 without a hiccup for five years of supervised release with the
7 limitations of supervised release, is that not sufficient
8 punishment for him?

9 Honestly, I'm an advocate, you know that I'm almost
10 always asking for a nonjail sentence, but in this particular
11 case, it will interrupt placement, it would interrupt
12 treatment --

13 THE COURT: But the treatment by the treatment
14 provider has not been that great.

15 MS. SHROFF: Okay.

16 THE COURT: Look, I think you have stronger arguments
17 if the treatment provider was saying, oh, he's night and day
18 from where he was before, but that's not what he's saying.

19 MS. SHROFF: But night and day shouldn't be the
20 standard for a person like Mr. Sherlock is what I'm trying to
21 tell the Court.

22 THE COURT: I don't know what the standard is for
23 Mr. Sherlock. The point is that I think the argument that his
24 treatment would be derailed by a prison sentence is harder to
25 make when his progress, according to his treatment provider,

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1 has not been that great.

2 MS. SHROFF: But that's what I'm saying, I do not
3 think that it's fair for the doctor to say it hasn't been that
4 great now, having done nothing to make it better or engaged his
5 mother --

6 THE COURT: But I think the point is that his mother
7 can't do the treatment for him.

8 MS. SHROFF: But his mother can encourage --

9 THE COURT: But he's been encouraged the whole way.

10 MS. SHROFF: I don't agree, your Honor. I think his
11 mother, if she were in group therapy with him, with Dr. Cromer,
12 I think maybe you'd have a different result. I think his
13 mother didn't even know until we pointed this out to her. She
14 herself, if you want to question her, she's here.

15 THE COURT: No, look, you were the one who attached a
16 letter from Dr. Cromer.

17 MS. SHROFF: I attached the letter because I thought
18 it was important for the Court to know that a person with
19 certain limitations has at least shown up. You have --

20 THE COURT: But he had to show up.

21 MS. SHROFF: No, you've had defendants that you've
22 ordered into therapy that don't show up, and you remanded them.

23 THE COURT: But that wasn't the issue. But, in any
24 event, at the first sentencing, you attached a letter from
25 Dr. Cromer that, as I noted, didn't say much. It was damning

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1 with faint praise. And now I have further reports from
2 Dr. Cromer, who is his treatment provider, saying his progress
3 had not been that great.

4 MS. SHROFF: Maybe he needs a different treatment
5 provider. Maybe the fault is the treatment providers, I don't
6 know. But probation is well equipped to handle this far better
7 than any Bureau of Prisons.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 MS. SHROFF: There is really clear differentials in
10 the quality of treatment that Mr. Sherlock would get.

11 And I do tell the Court that placement for
12 Mr. Sherlock is extremely important.

13 THE COURT: Yes.

14 MS. SHROFF: And displacing him -- and I think that
15 perhaps Dr. Cohen can also speak to that if the Court wants.
16 Placing individuals such as Mr. Sherlock is monumentally
17 difficult, and his mother is not going to be able to take care
18 of him as she ages. It's just the truth.

19 THE COURT: You mean placing him going forward in
20 residential and --

21 MS. SHROFF: Yes, she can't take him back home now.
22 It would not be a good workable solution. He has placement,
23 and that placement is doing very excellent things for him.

24 The placement that he is in now is even more
25 structured. It has greater control because he is now living

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1 with people who are even less on the IQ level towards -- I
2 don't want to use -- you know what I'm saying. It's a more
3 structured program right now. To pull him out of that, I do
4 not think it would further a goal of sentencing.

5 So, for all of these reasons, your Honor -- if I
6 could, if I thought that Mr. Sherlock could deal with the
7 stress of not getting sentenced, I would ask you to just
8 continue and see how he progresses, but it occurred to me while
9 I was going through all the sentencing, is that basically
10 that's what you're going to do anyway with the five-year
11 supervised release because this Court is very involved.

12 THE COURT: Look, I have to sentence him. It's been
13 two years now.

14 MS. SHROFF: Right.

15 So, that's what I'm saying. I'm saying that
16 sentencing him -- the fact that sentencing is looming, and just
17 in case you sentence him, he's not going to drop off the
18 treatment floor or the treatment graph and suddenly disappear.
19 He is on five years of supervised release. I just think this
20 man has been punished enough, and some of his punishment is
21 innate. I think that sometimes we forget how fortunate we all
22 are. We don't have innate hardships. His hardships have not
23 only been innate, familial. And I just ask the Court to
24 consider that I do think that Mr. Sherlock is really an outlier
25 of defendants that come before this Court.

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1 THE COURT: Well, I think that's fair. All right.
2 Thank you, Ms. Shroff.

3 Ms. Rothman?

4 MS. ROTHMAN: Your Honor, I just want to respond to a
5 few points by defense counsel and, of course, answer any
6 questions the Court has. I don't think there is really a need
7 for me to go over everything because there's been so many
8 submissions in this case, and the Court has an abundance of
9 information.

10 Showing up and doing the work are two different
11 things, and I think the Court realizes that. What we see from
12 Dr. McCarthy's report, as conveyed to her by Dr. Cromer, is
13 someone who's not committed to treatment. And the concern
14 there is the defendant's addiction to child pornography is not
15 going to stop without treatment.

16 So, if this Court imposes a nonincarceratory sentence,
17 and the defendant does not have the commitment to treatment,
18 we're going to find ourselves back here again with another
19 violation, which everybody wants to avoid.

20 What I'm confused about is whether this treatment
21 facility is working or not, because, at the beginning of
22 today's proceedings, I think there was a suggestion that
23 probation and Dr. Cohen will have a different treatment plan
24 for the defendant, that his current placement is not working,
25 and we should go somewhere else. But then, at the end, I'm

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1 hearing that his current treatment is the best place for him
2 and he's making great progress there. And simply that's not
3 true, and we have a report -- information from people that see
4 him regularly, which is saying the complete opposite.

5 THE COURT: Well, I think Ms. Shroff can speak to this
6 if she wants, but I think there are sort of two things to
7 remember. One is placement in a residential facility and the
8 other is treatment. They're not coterminous. The treatment
9 provider is not the residence provider.

10 So I thought Ms. Shroff was alluding to his placement
11 in a group home, which that would be affected by a prison
12 sentence for sure.

13 MS. ROTHMAN: Correct, your Honor. But this is not a
14 situation where the defendant is making great strides in that
15 group home. If that were the case, you could see a concern
16 with taking him out of that facility, putting him in a
17 correctional facility for a period of time, and the trauma that
18 would cause to an ongoing course of treatment and stability.
19 That's not what we have here. We have someone who, at that
20 treatment facility, used marijuana and someone who, at that
21 treatment facility, at that residential facility, obtained a
22 cell phone, which he had for a period of time. What did he do
23 with that cell phone? He didn't check sports or talk to his
24 mom. He went on an escort service, something that's closely
25 related to his addiction of child pornography. Not the same,

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1 but closely related.

2 I don't believe that the purposes of sentencing would
3 be served with a nonincarceratory sentence here. The defendant
4 already had that opportunity with his first conviction, and
5 that didn't work. The defendant has not shown the commitment
6 to change that I think would warrant, or could possibly
7 warrant, a variance below the guidelines here, to a
8 nonincarceratory sentence.

9 This is a case -- and we recognize that prison will be
10 very difficult for Mr. Sherlock. No one is disputing that, he
11 is a complicated person, but in thinking about all the things
12 this Court needs to consider -- deterrence, general deterrence,
13 specific deterrence, keeping the community safe -- all of those
14 factors warrant an incarceratory term, and, here, the
15 guidelines are reasonable.

16 THE COURT: Well, that's what I was surprised at. So
17 you're still -- after the reports, your view is still a
18 guideline sentence is appropriate. Probation is recommending
19 about half the guideline sentence, but your view is that five
20 to six and a half years is appropriate.

21 MS. ROTHMAN: Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: So, with the constellation of issues and
23 problems that Mr. Sherlock has, both problems that would make
24 prison harder for him, problems that make him -- I think, in
25 fairness to the reports I've seen, that make him sort of more

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1 susceptible to an addiction than others, your view is that he
2 should simply be treated like somebody else who's in that same
3 range?

4 MS. ROTHMAN: Your Honor, I don't think this is a case
5 where -- the answer is, yes, your Honor, we do. This is not a
6 case where the child pornography guidelines are so extreme,
7 such that the concerns of Dorvee, I think, would apply here.
8 In the world of child pornography cases -- and I speak from my
9 own cases, my colleagues' cases -- it is not uncommon to see
10 many of the same issues that affect Mr. Sherlock affect other
11 defendants. And I don't think it's appropriate to say that, as
12 a matter of course, I'm always going to go down where the
13 guidelines are the starting point because of certain conditions
14 that affect individuals who tend to view, receive, exchange
15 child pornography.

16 So, yes, we believe here the guidelines are reasonable
17 and appropriate, particularly for a two-time offender. The
18 reason they're so high is not because of the offense level --
19 there are 25 -- it's because of category II. And the reason
20 for that --

21 THE COURT: Wait, wait, wait. This is an area that I
22 can speak to, okay? So if you were in category I, his
23 guideline range would be 57 to 71. Because he's in category
24 II, he's 63 to 78.

25 MS. ROTHMAN: That's right, your Honor. I misspoke

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1 that.

2 THE COURT: So that's an increment, but that's not
3 what's driving this, it's the offense level.

4 MS. ROTHMAN: They're higher because of the criminal
5 history. I don't think this is a case where you're seeing
6 enhancements due to volume, due to videos, which are often the
7 things that boost the offense level for child pornography
8 cases, where I think it's one video counts as -- I don't have
9 the guideline -- multiple images. We're not seeing that here.
10 So, yes, notwithstanding the defendant's personal
11 characteristics, what we see here is a repeat offender who has
12 not committed to change, who has shown, in fact, the opposite
13 to his treatment providers and the Court. And so, with all of
14 those things to consider, we don't see a basis to go below the
15 guidelines.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

17 Ms. Shroff, anything you want to say in response?

18 MS. SHROFF: Yes, please, your Honor.

19 So, there is no volume of child pornography, there are
20 no multiple videos of child pornography. According to the
21 government, he has few images and few videos, such that Dorvee
22 should not kick in.

23 THE COURT: Well, the point is that Dorvee involves
24 somebody who was going to do more time in jail than murderers,
25 than child rapists. That was one of the things that the

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1 circuit was talking about in Dorvee.

2 MS. SHROFF: One.

3 THE COURT: So, in fairness to Ms. Rothman, the
4 guidelines here are nowhere close to where they were in Dorvee.

5 MS. SHROFF: True.

6 THE COURT: They're very, very different cases.

7 MS. SHROFF: True. But in Ms. Rothman's presentation,
8 she notes the absence of numerous videos and the absence of
9 numerous photos, which partly forms and informs the nature and
10 characteristics of the offense. It shows that he is not a
11 prolific child pornographer. He's not somebody who downloaded
12 tons and tons of videos. He's not somebody whose addiction is
13 so crippling, that he has a mandatory minimum of even five
14 years. I just wanted to note that admission by the government,
15 number one.

16 THE COURT: The guidelines -- there's no dispute as to
17 what the guidelines are, so you don't need to spend a lot of
18 time on that.

19 MS. SHROFF: I know. I just want to point out two
20 things, your Honor.

21 THE COURT: But in terms of the addiction, let me just
22 get to a point you just made, what's described in both of the
23 reports is somebody who was downloading on a regular basis.

24 MS. SHROFF: I'm going to get there.

25 THE COURT: On a daily basis.

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1 MS. SHROFF: I understand. I'm going to get to the
2 addiction.

3 I just want to point out that paragraphs 42, 43, and
4 44 of the PSR, that's enhancements of four, plus two, plus two,
5 which would be eight, which would all be subject to Dorvee, but
6 I just note that, and I move right along -- well, actually, 45
7 as well. So, I just want to point that out and move along, so
8 that the record on that is clear. Dorvee would kick in for all
9 of them.

10 But let me --

11 THE COURT: I'm not -- we're all talking about Dorvee.
12 Dorvee would kick in meaning what?

13 MS. SHROFF: Meaning that the government's position
14 that United States v. Dorvee doesn't apply to the
15 reasonableness of these guideline calculations is not a
16 statement we agree with for purposes of appeal. That is all
17 I'm saying.

18 THE COURT: But, look, Dorvee is the law of the
19 circuit, so it applies. I think the issue is whether this case
20 is distinguishable from Dorvee, and, in many ways, it is. But
21 the point is that the guidelines are not magic, and the
22 guidelines are not entitled to any presumption of correctness
23 that courts have an obligation to go beyond the guidelines.
24 So, the guidelines are relevant, they're important, they serve
25 a purpose, but it is often the case that they don't even come

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1 close to telling the whole story, and courts have an obligation
2 to look at other things.

3 So, that's the message of Dorvee. I get that message
4 loud and clear. And, of course, I've already said all the
5 factors I am going to consider.

6 MS. SHROFF: Let me just address the other issues.

7 The government then argues that because he had use of
8 drugs and had looked up an adult child pornography site using a
9 phone, that somehow he's more deserving of punishment, and
10 prison is the cure for that. I just want to address for the
11 Court, just pick any five newspapers in the last three or four
12 weeks, and I think we can all agree that there is no place that
13 has more cell phones and more drugs than the Federal Bureau of
14 Prisons, including the MCC, including the MDC. And this is --
15 as one newspaper reporter said, there are more phones than Best
16 Buy at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

17 So, putting him in jail, warehousing him in a jail, is
18 sincerely not going to keep him away from a phone or drugs.
19 What is going to keep him away from a phone and drugs are two
20 things: Mr. Sherlock's growing understanding that that would
21 be wrong and bad for him and the strictures of supervised
22 release, which would tell him, as you have done before and he
23 has shown to you, that he can actually listen to the Court's
24 directive and do better. So, this Court gave him a chance, did
25 not remand him, he's had not one positive drug test, he has not

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1 gone back to using any cell phones, and that is incremental
2 progress. It's not the level of progress you and I want to
3 see, but it nevertheless is progress. Not all of our children
4 go to gifted and talented, not all of them skip a grade, some
5 of them stay behind one or two grades, and that is
6 Mr. Sherlock's lot. But he is doing better. He's not just
7 doing as well as we want him to.

8 That's what I'm trying to tell the Court.

9 THE COURT: No, I understand what you're saying.

10 MS. SHROFF: I'm not sure if Mr. Sherlock wants to
11 speak, your Honor. May I just have a minute with him?

12 THE COURT: Sure.

13 MS. SHROFF: Thank you.

14 (Defendant and counsel confer)

15 MS. SHROFF: Your Honor, Mr. Sherlock says he doesn't
16 want to speak.

17 THE COURT: That's okay. He has no obligation to, and
18 as I always say, and I'm not sure if I said it yet, but the
19 fact that you choose not to speak will not be held against you
20 in any way. My point was simply that you have a right to, and
21 if you'd like to, you'd be very welcome to, but if you don't
22 wish to, that's quite all right.

23 MS. SHROFF: And, your Honor, you were correct about
24 my issue with the placement. I meant placement in the group
25 home.

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1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MS. SHROFF: And that probation and Dr. Cohen are
3 available to work out treatment and assist, but the decision
4 for treatment is really for probation and the group home, not
5 for us.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 You mentioned probation a couple of times, and
8 probation is here, which isn't always the case. So,
9 Ms. Millan, is there anything you wanted to add?

10 MS. MILLAN: No, your Honor.

11 THE COURT: So, probation has recommended the same
12 sentence both times. We've had a revised presentence report,
13 and the recommendation, both in the first and the last, is 36
14 months. That's what you're recommending?

15 MS. MILLAN: Yes, your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Yes? Okay.

17 As those who have -- Ms. Shroff, Ms. Rothman, and
18 others who have appeared before me before know, sometimes I
19 take a short break to just collect my thoughts. I think it's
20 important to do that. I've been preparing for this sentence
21 for a long time. I've read everything multiple times. I
22 recognize the enormous impact this sentence will have on
23 Mr. Sherlock and on others, including his mother, but others as
24 well. I also recognize the significance of this crime and the
25 fact that there are victims, perhaps not identified victims,

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1 but nonetheless victims. But as much as I prepare, I also want
2 to be open to hearing arguments, to hearing what lawyers have
3 to say, or sometimes defendants, or victims, or others who
4 speak at a sentencing. So it's important to come to a
5 sentencing openminded while still being prepared.

6 So, what I'd like to do is take maybe five minutes to
7 collect my thoughts, think about what I've heard today from the
8 attorneys, and then I'll come back, and then I will announce
9 the sentence I intend to impose, I'll state my reasons for it,
10 I'll then make sure that I haven't done anything illegal or
11 improper, and then I'll formally impose the sentence. So just
12 a few minutes. Thanks.

13 (Recess)

14 THE COURT: Thanks for your patience. As I've said
15 before in this case, I only get to do this once, so it's
16 important that I really have the information I need and also
17 have the opportunity to really think hard about the arguments
18 that have been made. So I think I have done that. It's been
19 about two years, I guess, since I first met Mr. Sherlock, when
20 he first came before me. The complaint in this case was, I
21 guess, August of 2017. So, it's been a while, and people
22 change, people aren't static, people do change, but I have a
23 pretty good indication as to who Mr. Sherlock is, the
24 challenges he's been dealing with, and will continue to deal
25 with, and his prospects for doing that successfully.

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1 In our system, Mr. Sherlock, a judge has to explain
2 themselves. The judge has to explain his or her reasons for a
3 sentence. I think that's good. I don't think anybody should
4 have to wonder what the judge was thinking when the sentence
5 was imposed. So I'm going to go through now what sentence I
6 think is appropriate and why. None of this is designed to be a
7 lecture, but it is important to make a record, both for your
8 benefit, for your mom's benefit, for the benefit of the public.
9 That's why we do it all in open court, with a court reporter,
10 so that it's all transparent.

11 So, I guess I'll begin with what is obvious: This is
12 a serious crime. This is a crime that has a real impact on
13 people. There are victims in this case. We don't know them,
14 they're not here, but there are victims, and you know that. I
15 think that -- I mean, there is evidence here that reflects that
16 you were aware of that even before you were arrested. And
17 there are statements attributed to you while you've been in
18 treatment to reflect that you understand that these are
19 victims, and that there's a real impact, not just to the
20 physical abuse that these victims had to endure while the
21 videos or photos were made, but that there's continuing abuse
22 just knowing that people are looking at the images of their
23 abuse and being gratified by it. That psychologically is a
24 very damaging thing. Sometimes I get letters from victims like
25 that, and they're attached to the report because law

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1 enforcement has been able to identify a victim, and so the
2 victim sometimes will make a statement saying, you know, ten
3 years ago, when I was 12, I was, you know, videoed or
4 photographed by my father in a sexual act, and they will talk
5 about the impact that had on them, and they will sometimes talk
6 about the impact of knowing that others are still viewing that
7 photo or that image for sexual gratification, and they will
8 talk about how traumatic that is.

9 We don't have that here, but I think you understand
10 that. And I don't want to lecture on it.

11 It does seem that Dr. Cromer thought that maybe you
12 don't appreciate that as much as you need to. It's hard to
13 assess whether that's true or not. I just want to stress, this
14 is not a victimless crime. Every viewing of child pornography
15 has an impact. It creates a market or a demand for these types
16 of images, and it has a real impact on the people who were
17 abused. So, I'll start there. That's why it's illegal, that's
18 why the penalties for this kind of crime are severe, that's why
19 the guidelines are high. So that's the first point I want to
20 make.

21 The second point I think I obviously need to make is
22 that this is not the first time you have done this. It's not
23 the first time you've been prosecuted for this conduct. I
24 don't get a ton of these cases, but I get enough over the
25 years, but it's rare that I get somebody who has done this more

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1 than once. In your case, you did. There's a prior conviction
2 in the state for which you got a term of probation, but that
3 makes your returning to it your second offense, this offense,
4 it makes you more culpable by virtue of the fact that you've
5 already had your wakeup call. You went through the system, you
6 went through court proceedings, you were sentenced by a judge,
7 you knew all of that, and that should have had an impact, and
8 it didn't. And it makes you more culpable. That is relevant
9 to sentencing.

10 So, I would say this: Ordinarily, if I had a person
11 charged with this crime, who admitted this crime, who had done
12 it before, and previously been prosecuted and given a
13 noncustodial sentence, I would say ordinarily these guidelines
14 would not offend me. Some judges have real problems with the
15 guidelines in this space, and that is empirically true. It is
16 a fact that judges depart from these guidelines at a higher
17 rate than other guidelines, no question about it, and there's
18 been a lot of discussion about whether they are pegged too
19 high. But I would say, for this crime, on these facts, with
20 your history, I think this is not one of those cases where I
21 would be that disturbed by it. I think every case is
22 different, but I think, based on the objective factors here, I
23 would say these guidelines are about right. It would seem to
24 me that's right for a person who didn't get the message the
25 first time, then we've got to send the message. So that would

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1 be 63 to 78 months.

2 But everybody's different, every case is unique, and I
3 think in your case, certainly there are unique factors at play
4 here. I think that the challenges that you have had in life,
5 both in terms of the family issues that you've had with the
6 loss of your father and your brother, with the real cognitive
7 challenges, with the autism spectrum disorder that Dr. Cohen
8 talked about, I think that's a very real thing, and obviously
9 that has an impact on you. It has an impact, I think, in terms
10 of your culpability for this crime, and, also, I think, it has
11 an impact on rehabilitation treatment and other things that are
12 also important aspects of sentencing. So I thank Dr. Cohen for
13 being here and thank you for the report. I had a lot of
14 reports. I had Dr. Kleinman's report, I had Dr. McCarthy's
15 report, I had Dr. Cohen's report. I also had the benefit of at
16 least statements from, and a letter from, Dr. Cromer. So,
17 there are some differences. I have to say, I don't think the
18 differences were that great, for the most part, in these
19 reports. They certainly didn't shock me. They seemed to
20 confirm what I perceived, which was that this is a person who's
21 got a lot of challenges and who's different than most
22 defendants and different than most defendants in cases
23 involving child pornography. And that, I think, is not a
24 particularly controversial statement. They disagree on some
25 things, about pedophilic disorder. That's a statement and a

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1 diagnosis that was made in 2015 originally in the context of
2 the state case. It was repeated by Dr. Kleinman in his report.
3 Dr. McCarthy seems to echo it. There's been some challenging
4 of her qualifications to make that sort of an assessment.
5 Dr. Cohen suggests that the autism spectrum disorder might mask
6 or impact a diagnosis, and I credit that. To the extent
7 there's any difference between the reports, I guess I would
8 defer to Dr. Cohen, who looked at a very specific aspect of
9 Mr. Sherlock's experience and mental health.

10 But I don't think it really matters that much,
11 ultimately, as to whether it's one disorder or another. It
12 seems to me that there are risks. The statement to Dr. Cromer
13 troubled me, about apparently Mr. Sherlock saying that he had
14 gone into chatrooms and was targeting younger people. But
15 there's no evidence that Mr. Sherlock has ever had any contact
16 with a minor, and it's not clear that he would in the future.
17 I don't think there's any basis for saying that there's a high
18 risk of that. There is a risk of that, but it's hard to assess
19 what that is.

20 But I do think the fact that there is a prior
21 conviction here does speak to the need for some deterrence,
22 specific deterrence. And Dr. Cromer's statements, I think,
23 confirm that for me, suggest that some period of incarceration
24 is appropriate, to send that message. And the other factor
25 that I think really does stand out for me is just punishment.

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1 I do think that this is a serious crime, and even with all the
2 challenges, with all the diagnoses, and empirically recognized
3 issues that Mr. Sherlock has cognitively, and socially and
4 emotionally, nonetheless, I do think that there needs to be
5 some punishment here. Nothing close to the guidelines -- I
6 don't think that would be appropriate -- but I do think that a
7 noncustodial sentence after the prior conviction for the same
8 conduct and with a less than -- some progress, obviously there
9 was a lot of progress here -- I don't want to understate it --
10 but there were some setbacks that were disappointing. That
11 also suggested to me that some term of incarceration is
12 appropriate, and that it wouldn't be appropriate to come down
13 as low as I might have had the performance with Dr. Cromer, had
14 there been no phone violation, had there been no marijuana use,
15 I think those things factored in along the margins, but,
16 ultimately, I'm pretty much where I was early on in this case,
17 and I think a sentence of 18 months is appropriate.

18 Now, I agree with Ms. Shroff, placement really
19 matters, and so that will be with an opportunity to surrender.
20 So you won't be going in until you have a designated facility,
21 and I'm going to strongly recommend that you be housed at the
22 Devens facility in Massachusetts, which has a residential sex
23 offender treatment program, because I think that's the only one
24 of its kind in the Bureau of Prisons, and I think it's the best
25 program in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. They also have

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1 another program, Sex Offender Management Program, I think, or
2 SOMP, there's SOTP and SOMP. One is residential and the other
3 is not residential in the same sense; you'll be in the jail,
4 but you'll be in a different, less onerous program. But my
5 recommendation is going to be that you be in the SOTP program
6 at Devens. I'm going to have you surrender in 45 days, or
7 later if the designation isn't made in 45 days, and I'm going
8 to reach out to the Bureau of Prisons immediately after this to
9 make sure that they have what they need and that the
10 placement -- that they're able to accommodate my
11 recommendation. I have every reason to believe they will, but
12 I can't guarantee it. So I'm going to do everything I can to
13 make sure that that placement is respected -- the
14 recommendation, rather, is respected.

15 So, that's the sentence that I intend to impose, those
16 are my reasons for it. So it's 18 months, which is half of
17 what probation recommended and probably a quarter of what the
18 guidelines are, but I think it's appropriate for all the
19 reasons I just said.

20 There is a mandatory term of supervised release of
21 five years, and I'm going to impose that here, with the
22 conditions that are set forth in the presentence report. I
23 won't announce them right now. I will when I impose sentence
24 formally, but that will be supervised release.

25 There is no fine that I'm going to impose.

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1 The government is not seeking restitution, right,
2 because you didn't identify the victims?

3 MS. ROTHMAN: We're not, your Honor. I think it's
4 just the JVTA fine.

5 THE COURT: Right. So it's a statutory \$5,000
6 payment. It's not exactly a fine, but it is a statutory
7 mandated payment, and that will be part of the judgment,
8 \$5,000. But no forfeiture and no restitution.

9 Is there any legal impediment to my imposing that
10 sentence?

11 MS. ROTHMAN: No, your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 Ms. Shroff?

14 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: So, let me then ask you to stand,
16 Mr. Sherlock.

17 Mr. Sherlock, will you please rise.

18 Mr. Sherlock, having accepted your guilty plea -- I
19 guess it was back in October of 2018 -- having adjudged you
20 guilty at that time, I now sentence you as follows: I sentence
21 you to a term of incarceration of 18 months, to be followed by
22 a term of supervised release of five years. That term of
23 supervised release will include the following mandatory,
24 standard and special conditions.

25 The mandatory conditions are that you may not commit

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1 another federal, state, or local crime of any kind. That means
2 even like jumping a turnstile. You can't commit any crimes at
3 all.

4 In addition, you may not possess or use a controlled
5 substance of any kind. That includes marijuana, it includes
6 harder drugs as well, but marijuana seems to be the drug that
7 has been giving you problems recently. So, that's a condition
8 of your supervised release.

9 You also will have an obligation to cooperate in the
10 collection of DNA, as directed by the probation department.

11 You will also be required to register as a sex
12 offender, which you may have already done as a result of the
13 state case -- I'm not sure -- but, in any event, you will have
14 to do that. So you'll have to -- as directed by your probation
15 officer, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, or any other state sex
16 offender agency, you'll have to register in the state where you
17 reside, where you work, where you're a student, or anyplace
18 else where you're spending time.

19 Now, I assume you're going to be in New York, so
20 that's New York's sex offender registration program, but you
21 have to comply with that. If you don't do that, that would be
22 a violation of supervised release. It would also be a crime.
23 So take that very, very seriously.

24 There are standard conditions, 12 in all. They're set
25 forth in the presentence report. I won't restate them. I

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1 impose those in every case -- virtually every case in which
2 there is a term of supervised release. One of them I'll
3 mention, which is, I don't think, really an issue for you, but
4 please take it seriously, you may not possess a firearm. As a
5 convicted felon, you can't possess a firearm. If you were to
6 possess a firearm, that would be a crime. It would also be a
7 violation of supervised release. It would get you back in
8 front of me, and probably back in front of another judge for
9 the crime and only bad things would happen. Again, you have no
10 history of weapons or anything like that, so I'm not too
11 worried, but in every case, I mention that, just because gun
12 violence is such a problem, that I want to stress that. Okay?

13 And then there are some special conditions that I am
14 going to impose here that are tailored to you based on your
15 experience so far and your needs. And so, those will include,
16 first of all, that you will participate in an outpatient drug
17 treatment program. That will include testing to make sure
18 you're not using any kind of drugs, particularly marijuana, but
19 any drugs. That program will be outpatient. It will be
20 approved by probation, but you have to attend it. You can't
21 blow it off.

22 I'm going to authorize probation to share information
23 with the treatment provider and vice versa, so each can share
24 their tests and progress reports to make sure that you're
25 getting the treatment that you need and that you're making the

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1 progress you should.

2 If you have the ability to pay for such a program, I'm
3 going to ask you to do that. So, if you have a job, or
4 insurance, or Medicare, or Medicaid, or any of those things
5 that would help cover the costs, I'll ask you to help do that,
6 because these are expensive programs. If not, then the Court
7 will bear the cost because it's imperative you participate in
8 the program on that.

9 In addition, I'm going to have you take part in a
10 mental health treatment program, an outpatient mental health
11 treatment program. That will also involve you covering the
12 costs, if you can afford it, through insurance or income. I'm
13 going to direct you to take any prescribed medication directed
14 by the treatment providers. I'm going to authorize the sharing
15 of information between the treatment provider and probation and
16 vice versa.

17 Hopefully, the mental health and the drug treatment
18 will be part of one program -- there are often programs that
19 can combine them -- but if they need to be separate, then they
20 will be separate. You have a lot of needs and issues that
21 should be addressed. There's no shame in that. Mental health
22 treatment is no different than physical treatment. You need to
23 address things that are posing problems. And so you have some
24 issues that are documented, and we want to make sure you get
25 that treatment. So, Dr. Cohen can certainly be a part of that.

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1 I have no objection to her being involved in helping set up a
2 treatment program, but probation will take the lead in setting
3 up the program, and if along the way, we think that we need to
4 fine-tune it, and there's disagreement, you can always come
5 back to me, and we can talk about what's best. But that will
6 be a condition, that you get mental health treatment.

7 You will also have to participate in an outpatient sex
8 offender treatment program. That's something that probably
9 will be one program for everything, but if it needs to be
10 multiple providers, then that's what it will be. The same
11 conditions: Approved by probation with the sharing of
12 information between the treatment providers and probation, and
13 also the need to cover the costs of it, if you can. Okay?

14 In terms of any mental health assessments or treatment
15 imposed as a consequence of this sentence, you essentially
16 waive your right to confidentiality -- that's true for all
17 these treatment programs -- but just know and understand that
18 things you say to a treatment provider might be shared with
19 probation and vice versa.

20 In addition to that, I'm going to direct you to
21 provide any requested financial information to the probation
22 officer to make sure you don't get in over your head
23 financially and just to make sure that you're living a
24 controlled lifestyle. I'm not sure where you'll live,
25 ultimately, when you get back out. Hopefully, it will be in a

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1 group setting like you have now, because that seems like it's
2 been, for the most part, productive. We've had some setbacks,
3 to be sure, but I think that that might work. You could, I
4 suppose, live at home, too, I'm not sure, but we'll address
5 that, I guess, when you get out. We'll have to decide what's
6 best for you, and your mom will be involved with that decision,
7 but probation can hopefully help with that as well.

8 You are not to open new credit card accounts, or take
9 out loans, or anything like that without first getting
10 permission from probation. You had a decent paying job prior
11 to this. You were making about \$60,000 a year, so that's not
12 bad. And I have nothing to suggest that you can't manage your
13 finances, but it does seem that you need help, and so you, I
14 think, said as much in the interviews that you had. So I want
15 probation to help, that's all. But I'm not too worried about
16 you gambling or anything like that. I had no indication of
17 that being a problem. We just want to make sure that you do
18 things in a way that's going to keep you progressing.

19 In addition, obviously, we've had a problem, a
20 recurring problem, with you downloading child pornography, so
21 one of your conditions is going to be that you have to tell
22 probation about any websites that you're using, if you're using
23 websites and things through work. I think it would be
24 ill-advised for you to be engaging in work where you frequently
25 have access to the Internet. I think that probably wouldn't be

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1 healthy, given the addictive nature of this stuff and your
2 history with it. But you have to let probation know about any
3 sites that you're going to, and you are barred from any kind of
4 sexually explicit material, particularly involving minors, but
5 I think adult pornography seems to lead you into child
6 pornography, at least from what's been reported, so no access
7 to any sexually explicit material whatsoever. So that's laid
8 out explicitly in the presentence report. I won't read it
9 verbatim here, but I'm adopting that as a condition.

10 Ms. Shroff, did you have some concern with any of
11 that?

12 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay.

14 All right. Another condition was that you not have
15 deliberate contact with any child under 18 years of age unless
16 approved by the probation office. You're walking on the
17 sidewalk, that's not what we're talking about, but you can't
18 sort of loiter around schools, you can't be deliberately
19 hanging out with underage people. If you have relatives or
20 things like that, and you're going to Thanksgiving, then you
21 have to let probation know because we want to make sure that
22 there's no situations that might be potentially problematic.

23 You have to submit your person, your property, your
24 residence, your place of employment, or vehicle, if you've got
25 one, any phones, or electronic devices you have, you have to

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1 submit to a search of those items, that probation can check to
2 make sure that there's no evidence of a crime or violation of
3 supervised release. If they think there might be, then they
4 can search those things, and you'd have to consent to that.
5 You couldn't decline.

6 You also have to let any other adults with whom you
7 share premises know that you're subject to this search
8 requirement. So your mother is here, but if there are other
9 adults who you're later living with, you have to let them know
10 that you're subject to this requirement because sometimes your
11 stuff and their stuff could get commingled, and they need to be
12 able to take steps to protect their own privacy and their own
13 property. So, you have to let them know that. Okay? I just
14 want to make sure I haven't missed anything.

15 So you can't go to schoolyards or arcades,
16 playgrounds, things like that, where child or people under 18
17 might be congregating without getting permission from
18 probation. Okay?

19 As I said, I'm not going to impose a fine.

20 There's a \$100 special assessment that's mandatory.
21 You have to pay that.

22 There's also a \$5,000 payment pursuant to the Justice
23 for Victims of Trafficking Act. That's a separate statute that
24 Congress passed, and it provides that a person who's convicted
25 of an offense like this has to pay \$5,000, and so that will be

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1 part of the judgment. Okay? So you should pay that as soon as
2 you can or in installments as we get out. I guess I would say
3 10 percent of your gross income when you're out and working, if
4 you're working. That kind of depends on whether you're working
5 or not, but that's something that do take seriously. That's
6 part of the judgment. Okay?

7 I'm going to allow you to voluntarily surrender. You
8 know, you're not going to go in today, I'm going to give you 45
9 days. In the meantime, the Bureau of Prisons will advise you
10 as to what facility you should surrender to. My recommendation
11 will be that it's Devens and that you participate in the sex
12 offender treatment program, the residential program. So,
13 hopefully, that will pan out, and if there's a problem, then
14 let me know. Okay? If they say, no, you're going to Fort Dix,
15 then we should talk about that.

16 So, Ms. Shroff, I'll ask you to let me know. Okay?

17 But that will be my recommendation, and I'm hopeful
18 that they will be able to honor it. They can't promise, but
19 they do intend to honor it, and I'm sure they will in this
20 case.

21 Are there open counts?

22 MS. ROTHMAN: No, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: All right.

24 So, I should tell you, Mr. Sherlock, you have the
25 right to appeal this sentence. You didn't give up anything;

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1 you pled without any agreement. You have the right to appeal
2 this sentence. If you wish to appeal, you would need to file a
3 notice of appeal within two weeks. Talk to Ms. Shroff about
4 that, she knows the drill, but it's a pretty strict deadline.
5 So, two weeks means two weeks. I'll get the judgment out
6 today, so two weeks from today is when you'd need to file that
7 notice of appeal.

8 So, have a seat.

9 Is there anything else we need to cover today,
10 Ms. Shroff?

11 MS. SHROFF: No, your Honor.

12 I may have an application for bail pending appeal, but
13 I need to talk to him before I make the application.

14 THE COURT: Okay. You can always make that request.

15 Ms. Rothman, anything else from you?

16 MS. ROTHMAN: No, your Honor. Thank you.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 So, let me thank everybody for being here today. This
19 has been a long process. Worth it, because this is a
20 complicated case, and this is a young man who matters. I
21 really believe that. So I want what's best for him in the
22 future. I've explained what the sentence is and why I think
23 it's appropriate, but the bottom line is that you're a young
24 man still, Mr. Sherlock, and the goal is to get you back out
25 into society and living a healthy and productive life, one that

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1 you can be proud of and one that can bring you happiness. So,
2 that's my hope for you, and I want to make sure that we do
3 everything we can to make that a reality.

4 So probation, as Ms. Shroff said, is a very good
5 resource, but, ultimately, you've got to be the leader on this.
6 You're responsible for your life, so you've got to do
7 everything in your power to make sure you never come back to
8 this kind of conduct, because it would just be disastrous for
9 you and your family.

10 You've got to make sure you're doing everything you
11 can, so that you are dealing with the problems that have led
12 you to where you are today. You're valuable, you matter,
13 you're a precious guy, your mother knows that, but we all know
14 that, and so let's make sure that we get you the things you
15 need. If you're not getting what you need, that you let us
16 know, but that you never do anything that's going to bring you
17 back into a situation like this and never do anything that's
18 going to lead to further victimization of children, because
19 they're precious, too. And the law is here to protect them.

20 So, good luck to you. Thanks very much.
21 Ms. Sherlock, thank you and good luck to you.

22 I thank Dr. Cohen for being here as well. I thank the
23 court reporter and probation.

24 All right. Have a good day. Thanks.

25 * * *